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COUNTRY Soviet Union (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Volkspolizei Units in Potsdam

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 February 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. It was learned on 11 December 1950 that no more than a small VP detail was still stationed in the former Leibgarde Husaren Kaserne on Stalinallee Potsdam. The Bereitschaft formerly there was said to have been deactivated and its Kommandos reassigned to such posts in Saxony and Thuringia as Erfurt. It was said that only the headquarters of the Bereitschaft and a guard detail were still in the installation. VP personnel stationed there thought that a school of the Bereitschaftspolizei would be established there. (1) 25X1
2. The barracks installation near Ehrenpfortenberg in Potsdam-Miche which had been occupied by more than 1,000 police in early December was almost vacant on 16 December. However, numerous guns were still in the sheds. It was said that the installation would soon be occupied by Grenzpolizei.
3. Two large trains, each with approximately 750 Volkspolizei and more than 20 guns of between 80 and 100 mm caliber were dispatched at the railroad station of Wildpark the night of 12 December. It was said that they were en route to Schwerin. (2)
4. All VP personnel of 36 years and over, as well as all younger classes who fail to belong to the SED will be discharged in Potsdam. (3)
5. It was learned on 16 December that families of VP personnel who suddenly left Potsdam in late November received mail postmarked Gera and Weissenfels. (4)
6. The Husaren Kaserne on Stalin Allee was occupied by VP Unit VII/9/11 numbering 600 police during the period from 1 to 17 December. A policeman stated that 300 police soon would be transferred to Halle. (5)
7. The Luftschiffhafen installation on Lenin Allee, formerly Zeppelinstrasse, was occupied by VP Sporthochschule (athletic academy) VII/9/4, with between 100 and 150 police. Training took place in the old zeppelin hangar. The entire area was surrounded by a high board fence.

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8. Police installations in Neufahrland quartered VP Units VI/2/18 and VI/2/20.
9. The Karl Marx plant in Babelsberg was occupied by VP Unit VI/1/19.
10. The Am Ehrenpfortberg Kaserne in Potsdam-Riche was occupied by VP Arty Unit VII/9/16. (5)
11. The VP installation in Neuseddin was occupied by VP Units VI/1/14 and VI/1/20.
12. Other numerical designations of VP units, learned from delivery notes of the Landespolizei at 18 Bauhofstrasse in Potsdam during the period from 10 to 23 November, included I/a/31/ I/c/40, I/9, VI/2/2 and VI/2/4.
13. Many VP recruits were seen walking about in groups of eight in the streets of Potsdam during the first weeks of December. It was said that 300 police were enlisted in Riche and 250 in the Husaren Kaserne.
14. Beginning 10 December, VP installations in Potsdam were barred to civilian traffic. All delivery cars were taken over at the barracks gate and loaded or unloaded by police. (5)

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Comments.

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- (1) [ ] the 1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty) which had been stationed in the Husaren Kaserne was scheduled to leave for Saxony and Thuringia on 11 December 1950. [ ] No confirmation of the arrival in Erfurt of elements of this Bereitschaft has been received. Considering that the 1st VP Bereitschaft in Erfurt is also engaged in artillery training, the Bereitschaft from Potsdam may have been pooled with that unit.
- (2) The transfer to Schwerin of the 6th VP Bereitschaft (Arty) has not been confirmed.
- (3) The discharges which are believed to have affected the Landespolizei were confirmed from other posts.
- (4) It is known that the 9th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) of Land Thuringia and the 5th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) of Land Saxony-Anhalt are stationed in Jera and Weissenfels respectively.

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- (5) These strengths of the 1st and 6th VP Bereitschaft may be based on observations in early December 1950, since most of the personnel of these units were said to have departed between 11 and 13 December 1950. See paragraph 1 and 2 of the present report. The cover designations were reported for the first time. They might be correct, since only IWA units carry Roman numeral VII. It is believed that I signifies Landespolizei Brandenburg and VI Landespolizei Gross Berlin, here referred to as Grenzpolizei Ring-um-Berlin.

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